



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*  
John Hoeven  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**  
APRIL 2005

**WHEREAS**, non-stranger and stranger rape and sexual assault affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize the dedication and contributions of the individuals who provide services to survivors and work to increase the public understanding of this problem; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition Against Sexual Assault in North Dakota and local crisis centers across the state are committed to increasing public awareness of sexual violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through education and partnerships among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, and victim services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor, state legislators and members of the Governor's Task Force on Violent and Sexual Offenders are committed to strengthening North Dakota's sexual violence laws with legislative actions and appropriations, including the Community Civil Commitment Act and legislation addressing increased sentencing and supervised probation for sexual assaults, and mandatory DNA sampling; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2005, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/  
John Hoeven  
Governor

Attest:

/s/  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State